THE SYNDICALIST

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The Passing Show

WAGES AND WHITE SLAVERY.

The Illinois Legislature is inquiring into the white slave traffic in Chicago, and it is quite possible it will "discover" some causes already quite well known. That is the way of the law. What everybody already knows, it steps out into the limelight in pomp and importance and makes known to the world.

Everyone with brains enough to discern the simplest proposition in economics knows that the low wages paid to girls is a prime factor in determining their choice of prostitution as a means of life.

Food and shelter is a common need of mankind, therefore they are the basic and most general factors in determining its actions.

This legislative commission has been doing some detective work and it says it has discovered that there are more than 50,000 women in Chicago who are receiving as wages $5 or less a week, and that the majority of them live in furnished rooms and that they are not properly fed; that the great mass of them have not known what a full meal is since they became wage slaves.

The manager of Sears, Roebuck & Company, the big mail-order house, said his firm employed nearly 5,000 women and girls, that none of them got less than $5 a week and that of those not living at home none received less than $8, which he said was quite enough for girls to live on and keep straight. When asked if HE could live on $8 a week, he answered: "That would be pretty hard to tell without trying."

Of course he didn't have to "try" in order to know that his wage slaves could live on that sum. These gentlemen have the keenest vision when it comes to deciding for others, and they are always so sure, just and magnanimous. This gent is quite sure the matter of low wages has no connection with prostitution:

Q.—"You think, then, that the employer who pays a girl less than a living wage has no moral responsibility in her downfall?" A.—"Not so far as the pay is concerned. There is no connection, in my opinion."

You see how stupid a great business man can confess himself to be when his economic interests dictate. And his interests are not as pressing as those of the $5-a-week girl. With him it is a matter of luxury; with her it is a matter of life's necessities.

Out of this investigation will come, what? It is quite possible we will get some paternal legislation. The state will step in to help the weak. For its own protection, for the future of its capitalist owners, it will attempt some such legislation as a minimum wage law for women.

The wage system must be protected from itself. In its present viciousness it is destroying the health of the workers so rapidly that the wise ones are taking alarm. This is especially true in the case of women, who, having no unions, are at the absolute mercy of the ravenous seekers for pelf.

Who is going to mother the next generation of slaves if the girls of this generation are rendered unfit for motherhood by prostitution and disease?

Then legislation of this kind will strengthen the power of the state. It will place it in the attitude of a friend of the oppressed; while at the same time really strengthening the power of capitalism.

A general raise in women's wages could easily be met in other ways. It would not affect profits, no more than the relatively high wages paid to bricklayers and others affects the profits of realty owners.

HAYWOOD'S RECALL.

As indicated in our last issue, Haywood has been recalled, by a vote of 23,406 to 11,673, as a member of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist party. The charge against Haywood was that he lauded direct action and deprecated political action. The charge was substantially true, as everyone who has heard him speak can testify; and the Socialist party, being a political institution, its action is quite logical. Naturally it wants men on its Executive Committee in full sympathy with its aims, if not in detail, at least with its fundamental principles.

Haywood is a direct actionist from the word go. His experience as a miner, which brought him into direct contact with realities, coupled with a true working-class, unselfish, fighting spirit, kept him a clean, outspoken advocate of direct action throughout as the final means of proletarian emancipation. That he thought he could use the Socialist party as an auxiliary to the main issue of industrial unionism was a mistake.

The division, natural and inevitable, between the forces of politics and direct action took place at the splitting of the old International in 1872, and wherever they have since come together it has been with the same result—clash, separation. The vapor of politics will not mix with the red blood of the revolution.

CLARENCE S. DARROW.

The second trial of this great labor attorney on the charge of jury bribing has ended in disagreement. One of the jurors said that the jury would have agreed for acquittal had Darrow not said, during his speech, that, although the bomb that destroyed the Times building killed twenty-one people, the McNamaras were not murderers, but workers in a great cause.

It was a case of revengeful persecution to have brought Darrow to trial on the second charge after he was acquitted in the first instance. His double-edged sarcasm had cut deeply into the hides of the state's attorneys. He had exposed their game to public eyes and laid bare their machinations to hound him to the penitentiary or to death—not for any crime, but because he is an able defender of labor. During his address to the jury he denounced these attorneys as a gang of brigands it is as vague and vacuous as anything a president ever wrote. But it is delightful reading. seeking his blood, and declared that he would die rather than cringe to them.

The cost of these trials will impoverish Darrow and his immediate friends unless labor digs into its pocket. Labor is on trial at Los Angeles in the person of this attorney, and while labor believes in defending itself in court; it should stand by the men who risk their liberties to defend it.

THE MEXICAN SITUATION.

The Mexican situation has not changed during the last fortnight, except to give the world assurance that the rise of Huerta has not affected the revolution in the least, that the "ignorant peon" is still as doggedly persistent in his foolish fancy that the earth belongs to him as well as to others, and is as insensible to argument now as he was several years ago, when he got the cranky notion into his head.

If we damned foreigners will only keep our hands off, the peon will make good his claim; he will re-establish a natural law.

While our single-tax friends and all the rest of us prate glibly about the natural relations of man to the earth, these peons put the ideas into practice; and the demi-respectable single-taxers especially flatter and boost this direct application of their theories by a silence so absolute that one can hear it. The reason? The single-taxer is a respectable politician; the peon is a direct actionist.

MAGONS REFUSED PAROLE.

The board of parole refused to grant to the four Mexican rebels, serving twenty-one months in the federal prison on Puget Sound, the ordinary benefits of the law extended to criminals of all shades.

By the law they were entitled to parole when one-third of their term was served. The board says that not for the "crime" of "aiding and abetting a revolution against a friendly power" can the privilege of parole be evoked.

Revolution is the worst crime in all creation—in the eye of government; and—strange is it, or is it not?—the most glorified performance in history.

No effort should be spared to get these rebels released. The new administration should be urged to pardon them. Write the new president, urging him to release them.

THE POLITICAL REVOLUTION.

A great deal of fuss has been made about changing of crews in Washington. Oceans of ink has been wasted on it, and the unwary public must surely be deeply impressed by it all, and will expect to receive at once the much-needed and long and loudly promised "relief." It little suspects that the whole outlay is pure and simple bunk.

Wilson's inaugural speech was just what one would expect from a professional wielder of words—simple, soft and soothing. As literature it surpasses anything ever written by a president. As a statement of aims and objects It leaves a pleasant feeling like a good poem. It stands out in beautiful contrast to the dull, heavy, legal stuff Taft wrote. Therefore I am for Wilson. If we are to be bunkoed, let it be done artistically.

JAY FOX.

THE SYNDICALIST

FORMERLY THE AGITATOR

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JAY FOX, Editor. W. Z. FOSTER, Manager.

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A constitutional executive, Hinnissy, is a ruler that does as he dam pleases and blames the people.—Mr. Dooley.

THE COMMUNE OF PARIS.

The working people will never forget the Commune. It is chiseled in their memory with bloody swords. It is branded on their hearts with the hot irons of revenge. The Commune is a great red splotch on the history of the nineteenth century. When the history of the overthrow of capitalism is written, March 18, 1871, will mark the beginning of the social revolution.

War between governments is a recognized institution, and rules are made to govern it. One of the rules is that when an enemy lays down his arms and surrenders he is taken as a prisoner of war, held until the war is over and then released. When the communists surrendered they were not accorded the benefits of this international law. They were not regular hired assassins. They had not served their time at the trade of killing. They did not carry the brand of some brute government on their breasts. They were not the blind slaves of king or president. They were the soldiers of liberty, fighting for real freedom, under the red flag of the social revolution, and therefore did not come under the classification of warriors.

In the eyes of the government of France, and in the eyes of all the governments of the world, in the eyes of the entire capitalist class, they were red fiends, deserving no mercy, no consideration, nothing but extermination.

After ten weeks of desperate and heroic struggle the workers of Paris were overcome by the government forces, and then the slaughter began. Thousands were stood up to the wall and shot to death. The streets of Paris were literally strewn with the corpses of workers, murdered in a deliberate coldness that makes one shudder at the thought that the nineteenth century could harbor such fiendishness in human form. Thirty-five thousand were banished to the penal colony on the island of New Caledonia.

Vengeance was the work of the capitalist government when it took Paris from the control of its people. An example was made of those rebels. The viper of revolution was forever exterminated. Never again would it show its head in the midst of society anywhere. France made an example for the world's governments. Crushed in Paris by the ruthless hand of French militarism, it would never appear again to trouble civilization with its Utopias, least of all in France.

But the revolution will not down. It cannot be crushed. Killing its votaries only hastens its coming. These are not idle words. France today has a greater revolutionary movement than any country in the world. Far from the slaughter of our comrades in Paris being a deterrent to the revolution, it is, on the contrary, its great inspiration.

We learn many lessons from this great uprising of the people of Paris, not the least important of which is that the ruling class is governed by none of the ordinary rules of civilization when dealing with revolutionists.

The workers of Paris were very conservative in many ways. They evidently feared public opinion. They were mistaken if they thought they could gain the plaudits of the world by being temperate in their dealings with capitalism. The Commune by its very act of revolt against capitalist government was regarded at once the world around the greatest enemy of capitalism. The communards did not touch the millions that lay in the Bank of France. They guarded them while sending agents out with worthless script to get supplies for the people. The leaders spent much of their time disputing about questions of authority and government, instead of properly defending the city.

By a study of the Paris Commune we are taught that, in the coming revolution, we must have no respect for private capital and no hankering for capitalist government. We learn that the business of the revolution is to free the workers by destroying the capitalist government, and not to set up a government of its own.

The Commune was the first battle in the social revolution. The communards made mistakes. It was quite natural they should. They fought bravely. They died heroically. Their memory lives and grows as the final battle approaches.

We are grateful for their valiant work, and most of all for the mistakes they made. We will see that they shall not be repeated in the coming revolution, and thus more assuredly the victory will be ours.

FRED MOE.

ON THE ROAD.

It is a long trip from Seattle to Chicago. But two stops broke the monotony of the ride. The first was Butte, the world's famous copper mining camp, the largest in the world, being a city of 60,000 people, where everything is union, where no wage slave works more than eight hours, and no one gets less than $3.50 a day.

In spite of this the Butte miners are not an overprosperous lot. The "homes" they live in compare favorably with the worst slums of the big cities. I saw the out-of-works by hundreds jostle each other to get into the building where they could pass before the boss and ask that dignitary for permission to slave down in the earth and contract consumption or get "winged." Before they can see the boss they must procure a card of permission to rustle a job. This card is granted at the offce of the company only after a long list of questions are satisfactorily answered.

I was twelve hours late in getting to Butte and missed one meeting. But I made up by spending an hour in the Rebels' Roost after a very satisfactory public meeting on the second evening. The suggestion that the god of snow connived with the railroad to sabote the saboters' meeting was taken as a timely joke.

In an all-union town like Butte the question of: How can the revolutionists best carry on their propaganda? was an especially interesting and important one. Of course it is no puzzle to the Syndicalist. But the I. W. W. is instantly confronted with the question: What need is there for the I. W. W. here, where everyone is organized?

I pointed out the danger to the labor movement of attempting to build up a rival union side by side with the regular organization. I pointed to the history of the labor movement, wherein the greatest enemy of the workers was the dual union, and that the workers recognize this so thoroughly they dread the very idea of a rival union. I showed the general weakening of the forces of labor by thus dividing the workers into rival factions, who would surely make war on each other, as they have in the past, and that, while thus foolishly fighting each other, the boss would step in and lick them both.

On the other hand, I suggested that by applying the Syndicalist tactics of going into the unions and carrying on the propaganda there the work would have the opposite effect. Instead of weakening the labor front they would really make it stronger every day, for every revolutionist inside makes a stronger union.

We surely are not fanatics. We certainly cannot set our common, horse sense aside in favor of a name or a form, and try to force conditions into a mold for which they are not shaped. Stay inside the miners' union, make rebels, and keep them rebels inside and set them to work making more rebels. This is the easiest way. It encounters the least amount of friction. It deprives the fakers of the charge of "dualism" and division. It makes each of you a more formidable enemy of the faker, because you will have more influence to use against him by being inside the union.

There are millions of unskilled to be organized. Get them into the I. W. W., but don't divide the workers that are already organized, for the very common-sense reason that your cause loses by the operation.

You cannot build an industrial union without industrial workers. You can make industrial workers faster in the miners' union than you can outside. What is more, 100 industrialists inside the union can wield more power than 500 outside, for the reason that they would be a balance of force to swing it in whatever direction they wished. And, having the balance of power, which an aggressive, intelligent minority always has, they could make the union into a revolutionary organization within a short time after they got their propaganda well started.

This is a practical method that applies right here on the job, and I hope to see you put it into operation soon.

My next stop will be Minneapolis.

JAY FOX.

THE OLD INTERNATIONAL.

The old International Workingmen's Association was formed in 1864 in London. From then till 1869 it was a federalist and revolutionary body. At the congress held at The Hague in 1872 Marx and Engels captured the congress and ruled in a thorough high-handed, autocratic manner. Engels in particular was the fanatical centralist who wished to utterly destroy the federal form of organization.

The General Council of the International was not supposed to interfere with the internal affairs of the national sections affiliated to the International; it was only to act as a central bureau for the correspondence of the different national organizations.

But Engels, who was a member of the General Council, and was correspondent for Spain, on July 2, 1872, wrote to the Federal Council in Spain an abominable letter, in which he demanded "a list of all members of the alliance," and concluded: "Failing to receive a categorical and satisfactory answer by return of post, the General Council will feel compelled to denounce you publicly."

Bakounine, who was the champion of the federalist element, was expelled, and the meeting place of the General Council was changed from London to New York, where the Marxian authoritarians reigned supreme, and were able to "suspend" the federalists.

The sixth congress of the International was held at Geneva. The federalists continued to hold congresses down till 1881, when they dissolved. On the other hand, the authoritarians, under the guidance of Marx and Engels, evolved from a revolutionary body to a reformist one. They became social democrats and foreswore all revolutionary methods.

The revolutionary International was killed.

When the federalists were expelled, the politicians spared no pains to weaken their influence. They even did the dirty work of police informers.

Thus, in Madrid, Paul Lafargue, the son-in-law of Marx, went so far as to denounce the federalist members of the International to the police as being revolutionaries. However, just as the authoritarians developed into social democratic politicians, so the federalists kept alive the revolutionary traditions, and in Spain they originated Syndicalism by declaring for the expropriation of the land owners and capitalists and the control of industry by free federations of the workers.

Ultimately the International Socialist Congress was established, which, at Zurich, in 1893, had the following resolutions submitted by the politicians:

"The struggle against domination and exploitation by the governing class should be political and have for its aim the conquest of political power."

Whereas the old International had declared:

"That the emancipation of the workers must be the work of the workers themselves," and "The economic emancipation of the working class is the principal aim, to which all political action should be subordinated."

The International Socialist and "Trade Union" Congress, in 1896, in London, passed resolutions which excluded every organization that did not declare for parliamentary action. The trade unions, unless they were dominated by politicians, had no standing there. Direct actionists, bona fide delegates from unions, were excluded, while politicians like Jaures, Deville and Millerand (now minister for war), who represented nobody but themselves, were admitted.

The old International had tried to implant their ideas from above. But though the Federalist International disappeared in 1881, its ideas went on developing regionally, and Bakounine's ideas are now more alive than ever.

Syndicalism has evolved in all countries—among the Slavs and Teutons, as well as the Latins; even

the heterogeneous inhabitants of America have evolved their Syndicalism. It is alive in all countries, and raises itself as the opponent of the centralist, authoritarian state Socialists by putting the free associations of the workers against the hierarchy of state officials, as being the controllers of the workers' destinies.

Seeing that this is so, the time was never more opportune for the institution of a new international —revolutionary, proletarian, and composed of economic organizations of the workers seeking to bring about international and simultaneous action for the economic emancipation of the working class.

Long live the new red International! Long live the combined unions of all countries!—London Syndicalist.

NEW BOOKS.

"Prison Memoirs of An Anarchist," by Alexander Berkman. Mother Earth Publishing Association, 55 W. 28th Street, New York. $1.50.

If you have ever been in prison, read this book; it will interpret you. If you have not been in prison, read it; for it will give you the experience of prison life as vividly as pen ever put a question before the mind's eye.

It is a gruesome subject to write about, is prison life, therefore the necessity for this book. Few men have the experience combined with the ability and the sociological viewpoint necessary to write a great book on prison life. Berkman has all these qualifications. If he has not written a great book it is our fault. If this book does not quicken our sluggish pulse and shame us out of our barbarism, we are to blame. A book can do no more than this book has done. It has told it all. Nothing is omitted through deference for our maudlin sensibilities. The most inhuman treatment of the unfortunate inmates, the most revolting practices of the caged human animals, are vividly portrayed, lucidly laid before you.

This book is not a tirade against prisons, it is more; it is the prison laid bare before your eyes. There it is in all its ugliness, all its brutality, all its corruption. What are you going to do about it? Berkman has painted the picture for you. Feast your soul on this hell-hole and tell us you can reform it, inject humanity into it.

Berkman spent fourteen years in prison, accumulating the experiences he has written in this book, and the marvel is not that he has written it, but that he has lived to write it. Few men live that long in the prisons of this glorious land of democracy. We don't hang men any more for assault or theft, we send them to a lingering death of torture in our reform prisons. The most gruesome and appalling part of this prison record is the numerous recitals of the tortures inflicted on the defenseless prisoners.

When will we abolish the prisons? When we abolish the system that makes crime, and creates criminals, a system that cannot exist without prisons in which to punish those who rebel against its crimes. What is crime if not the stealing of men's natural opportunities? You steal the earth from under their feet and then imprison them as trespassers. You rob them before they are born, and they come into the world loaded with debt. You refuse them even the privilege to make their living as your servants, and you imprison them if they refuse to die of starvation. J. F.

GUNMEN AT MERRYVILLE.

After the trial and acquittal of President Emereson and sixteen members of the Southern Lumber Workers' Union some months ago, a strike was called at Merryville, La., because the lumber trust discharged some members of the union who had testified for the defense. After vain attempts to break the strike through ordinary means, the bosses have now resorted to the latest and most improved methods, namely, organized mob violence.

Union men have been deported under threat of death if they return, the union headquarters raided and looted. The workers' soup kitchen was wrecked and strikers' children left to starve. Such is the civilized methods employed by the masters, and there is no law to reach them. They are the law.

The executors of this dastardly crime against human rights are the state officers, assisted by the private gunmen of the trust. Where the public officers are "socialistic," as at Hoquiam, Wash., they are pushed aside by the private gunmen and the workers slugged and murdered.

When workingmen attempt to defend themselves against these hired assassins, as in the coal fields of West Virginia, they are set upon by the state, whose protection theory says they should get, dragged before a military court and tried for their lives.

This sort of thing may last for a time, but I see its finish. Labor will not submit eternally to such outrage.

FAVORS INDUSTRIALISM.

Local No. 78 of the Plumbers' Union of Los Angeles, Cal., has adopted resolutions, among which are the following:

"The immediate reorganization of the American Federation of Labor through the initiative, to the end that said organization without delay adopt industrialism, in place of its craft organization principle, thereby bringing about a great consolidation of labor, with tremendously increased efficiency and correspondingly decreased cost.

"That this organization favors the adoption by the American Federation of Labor of all national and international organizations of the various crafts, with the object of centralizing their power and making it like the rest of the 'trusts'—a powerful working machine capable of dictating terms to the present owners of both wage slaves and machinery.

"That this organization favors a prompt and energetic, nation-wide movement to organize all classes of wage-earners, under the banner of the American Federation of Labor, to the end that when needed our solidarity will be invincible, and a struggle to obtain our rights will be unnecessary. The science of evolution is forcing labor to new battle grounds, and what was of apparent good a decade ago is as worthless as chaff today. Labor united is a power before which all must bow. Labor divided amuses us."

"THE TOILER" SUBSCRIBES.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 28, 1913.

Fellow Workers: After careful consideration and discussion by the members of the Kansas City Syndicalist League, we have decided that it would be best at the present time to make a success of one paper, and not divide our support and try to manage two or three papers.

Therefore I wish all subscribers of "The Toiler" to know that they will hereafter receive THE SYNDICALIST instead of "The Toiler," and I wish to take this opportunity to thank my rebel friends who have helped me publish "The Toiler," for our work was worth the time and money we put into it, as "The Toiler" did considerable good for the Syndicalist movement of America.

The time is now ripe for us rebels to put our shoulders to the wheel and make things hum.

Let the knockers knock; let the howlers howl, and while they are knocking we will build the S. L. of N. A. We will take the message of Syndicalism into the labor unions, which will bring about the speedy overthrow of capitalism.

Yours for Syndicalism,

MAX DEZETTEL.

HELP THE LITTLE FALLS STRIKERS.

The capitalists are going the limit in their efforts to convict the strikers on trial at Little Falls, N. Y. Financial help is badly needed. Send contributions to DEFENSE COMMITTEE, Box 458 Little Falls, N. Y.

GET A BUNDLE.

Why not get a bundle of THE SYNDICALIST regularly for distribution? We have reduced the price to one cent a copy for bundles of ten and over.

"SYNDICALISM," by Ford and Foster. The pamphlet that tells what Syndicalism is. Order from THE SYNDICALIST. Ten cents.

In Vienna 50,000 Socialists attended the funeral of Schumeier, the Socialist deputy, who was murdered by a fanatical clerical.

SYNDICALIST LEAGUE OF ST. LOUIS AND VICINITY

Headquarters, 1214 Franklin Ave.; Open 7 to 11 p. m. Week Days; also Sunday Afternoons and Evenings.
Business Meeting Every Saturday at 8 p. m.

LOCAL NO. 20, WAITERS' UNION, GROWS STEADILY.

When the militants started a campaign to make Local No. 20 a live and successful union to fight the battles of the workers in the hotel and restaurant industry in St. Louis and vicinity, the conservative element were afraid calamity might overtake the local should the militants show aggressiveness. But their fears were soon overcome, because the local grew and grew until it was packed to the doors, and the condition of our members correspondingly improved. Most all our members have worked steadily all winter, and not only that but by the activity of Local No. 20 the boys in the open house have been granted shorter hours and two days off a month. Six months ago some of our members could not talk unionism in the open houses without bad results to themselves. But now they openly do so, and it is getting to be very popular to be a union waiter in little old St. Louis.

The rank and file show great interest in the meetings, which are well attended, with the result that Local No. 20 is doing things. Come into the union, boys; the water is fine.

MOLDERS.

The molders in St. Louis and vicinity, after about three years of inactivity, have begun to wake up from their slumber. The Conference Board has put an organizer in the field and will get down to the real business of putting St. Louis on the map as a union molder stronghold. On request from the helpers, the Conference Board decided to assist them in their demands as much as possible. The Conference Board was also of the opinion that molders and helpers should so arrange that both would present demands at the same time, so as to be more able to assist each other.

THE LEAGUE.

The Syndicalist League did well in opening headquarters and advising leagues everywhere to do so as soon as possible, as this is the best means of bringing rebels from all the local unions in contact with each other. Here in St. Louis there are about 200 local unions. Suppose we get an average of two Syndicalists from each union; that would mean 400. All Syndicalists can easily understand what that would mean in the labor movement of St. Louis. Every local union has from one to twenty-five or thirty militants. It is up to us to reach them. SECRETARY.

FROM DARROW'S SPEECH.

"I know something of what the world calls criminals. They have the same warm handclasp. Their skulls and the brains in them were fashioned by the same power.

"You and I may have criminal instincts and it may have been our good fortune never to have had temptations thrown in our paths.

"When I see a man placing himself upon a pedestal and calling his fellow-men criminals I mistrust that man.

"I am ready for the eternal sleep. I have loved peace and I have loved my fellow-men. I have believed in law and love. Yet almost from the time I first opened my eyes I have been fighting, fighting, fighting for my fellow-men.

"I have practiced kindness and gentleness and mercy the best I could as the years have gone. That's why I am here—because I have loved, not judged, my fellow-men.

"Gentlemen, there is nothing to this case.

"Where men toil with their hands—where women, worn, weak, weary, are sewing tears into garments to be worn by the rich, I know there are prayers going up for me today—prayers that this jury will free me.

"Gentlemen, I submit to you my fate—the fate of my family."

Darrow finished his address to an accompaniment of sobs. Tears coursed down the cheeks of many women, and among the men there was much muffled blowing of noses.

THE REVOLT OF LABOR

The garment workers' strike in New York has been officially decalred off. Many thousands of the workers, however, refused to accept the Civic Federation agreement made and are continuing the strike. They claim Rickert, president of the United Garment Workers, betrayed them by making the agreement and giving them no chance to pass upon it.

Many employers, seeing the determined attitude of the strikers, have deserted the employers' associations and acceded to the union's demands. The chances of the remaining strikers making a complete victory are very good.

In spite of its doubtful conclusion this great strike must be registered as an important victory, as one of the very few great strikes won by American Federation of Labor unions in recent years. The workers, besides winning important concessions for themselves and increasing their union's membership 100,000 have just about destroyed the many New York associations of clothing manufacturers. Two new and very important factors in the winning of this strike were the solidarity shown by the garment workers in outlying cities, and the wholesome fear the bosses had of forcing the garment slaves into the I. W. W. by crushing their A. F. of L. unions. The days are almost past in this country when the workers in one city or trade will scab on those in another. The same is true of such Civic Federation arguments as that of Rickert. The workers will not much longer submit to them.

The structural iron workers in their convention re-elected Ryan president of the union. They are also going to levy an assessment on the general membership of $100,000 to defend the convicted officials if new trials are granted them. These two facts alone are conclusive proof that the old trade unions are not so devoid of spirit as many would have us believe. It would have been very easy to find some excuse to forsake Ryan and the rest. It takes courage to provoke and face the chorus of capitalist howls that will be raised over the audacity of this union electing "convicted criminals" as officials. Had the structural iron workers "flunked" in this crisis there would have arisen a clamor from the many-tongued critics of the A. F. of L. However, seeing that the right thing has been done, these same critics, always proceeding on the theory that the A. F. of L. can do no right, will have nothing to say. Let us therefore at least record the praiseworthy stand taken by the iron workers.

The Hodcarriers' International Union recently had its jurisdiction extended to all kinds of laborers engaged in construction work, such as sewer diggers, railroad construction workers, etc. This is an important move, and if followed up by a vigorous campaign of organization will be of immense benefit. A great deal has been said about the inability of the A. F. of L. to organize the floating workers of the West because of the necessity of these workers to carry several union cards or to pay a new initiation fee each time they changed from one industry to another. But recent events show that this objection is falling to the ground. Provided present A. F. of L. plans are carried out, the bulk of the floating workers will be eligible to membership in two organizations—the hodcarriers' and the woodworkers. Once these unions have a considerable membership, what more natural than that they establish a free transfer system between them. Thus the many union disadvantages would cease at once.

One of the most important questions now agitating the French labor movement is that of Catholic labor unions. The leaders of the Catholic Church, encouraged by their successes in Belgium and Germany, are endeavoring to found a Catholic labor movement in France. So far they have been altogether unsuccessful except among the railroaders, of whom they have been able to organize some 40,000. One reason for the priest labor leaders securing a foothold among the railroaders is the bitter internecine struggle between the Socialists and Syndicalists. While they have been fighting each other, the priests, aided by the employers, have had practically a clear field. However, the French militants are now fully aroused and will soon drive out the Catholic unions.

A committee of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, now in negotiation with the railroad managers in Chicago regarding local conditions, discovered a dictagraph in their committee room. For a couple of days, without molesting it, they concocted all kinds of horrible plots for the benefit of the listeners. Tiring of this sport, they made a raid on an adjoining room and there found a couple of Burns detectives taking down a stenographic report of what was being said. The committee is now seriously considering the advisability of studying the mute language.

The United States government is bestirring itself to encourage the production of wireless telegraph operators. It is at present taking a census to learn just how many the various schools could furnish in a pinch. The reason is plain. The wireless telegraphers as a rule receive ridiculously low wages, and as all over the world they are rapidly organizing into the Commercial Telegraphers' International Union, a strike may be looked for at any moment.

The machinists and electricians have agreed to henceforth make joint contracts. Instead of each singly making contracts with individual companies, as at present, it is proposed that both unions meet in joint conference and draw up a wage scale, etc., for all the electric supply companies throughout the United States and Canada. Thus the "unlearnable" craft unions are learning.

The Illinois miners in convention, amid the wildest enthusiasm, voted to assess themselves $100,000 for the benefit of the West Virginia strikers. They also voted to give them the remaining $800,000 in their treasury if it becomes necessary. This incident clearly proves that the miners' union is "an adjunct of the capitalist class."

The big I. W. W. strike of rubber workers at Akron, Ohio, has produced a new wrinkle in the war between the A. F. of L. and the I. W. W. The A. F. of L. proposes to give the strikers $35,000 per week and thus lay the foundation for a union that will take in all the 75,000 workers in the rubber industry.

The structural iron workers have declared off their eight-year strike against the American Bridge Company. They believe this will net them at least 5,000 members.

Up to date, sixteen of the convicted "dynamiters" have been released on bond from Leavenworth penitentiary.

For several hours Pittsburgh steel workers succeeded in keeping scabs from entering mills by coupling hose to the fire plugs and liberally dousing the "finks."

W. Z. FOSTER.

SOCIETY NOTES.

A parcel post package broke. It contained pepper. Everyone moved out of the postoffice.

Judicial distribution of just plain snuff broke up an English suffragette meeting.

A small piece of brown soap dissolved in the blacksmith's tub will stop the tempering of tools. Tools dipped in this solution become coated, which prevents the quick transfer of heat to the water.

A "fink" on the Illinois Central Railroad took three days putting cylinder packing rings in a locomotive. First half-day he broke seventeen at $1 each. The Illinois Central passed its last dividend.

A rush order car of cotton landed on a side track with seven hot boxes. On examination it was found minus seven brasses. How they fell (?) out is a mystery. The company was sued for non-fulfillment of contract.

Tubes containing phosphorus were placed in English mailboxes. These tubes broke when the boxes were emptied into mailbags. Vast quantities of mail matter was destroyed. During strikes of telegraphers the mails are one of the strike-breaking agencies.

The Socialist party's own dear Victor Berger has just confessed to clogging the mechanism of the United States government's printing and mailing departments with 2,000,000 copies of his recent hot-air effervescence. Is not this sabotage and in violation of Article 2, Section 6?

Hardwood trim for the building trades, if spotted with lime-water stains, is an exceedingly hard proposition for the painter to get around.

In a recent investigation some 200,000 pounds of butter in Chicago was found to contain a 16 per cent surplus of water. Twenty million pounds of butter in storage disappeared as soon as it was learned that investigation was on foot. Some sabotage—eh?

J. A. JONES.

GERMANS EAT DOG.

Berlin is a progressive city and its Council has the welfare of the people greatly at heart. In the city slaughter house a section has been set aside for the killing of dogs. This is no joke, but a dire fact. It is well known that for a long time the poor of Berlin have been eating dog meat, beef having become a delicacy quite beyond their reach. Verily we are progressing.—Freie Arbeiter.

Statistics show that during the last two years the miners have received, as an increase of wages, $4,000,000. They also show that the price of coal has gone up $13,500,000 during that time.

The men who own the earth and its products own you.

Books and Pamphlets For Sale by the Syndicalist Publishing Association.

A Physician in the House, Dr. J. H. Greer	$2.00
Ancient Society, Lewis H. Morgan	$1.50
What Is Property? P. Proudhon	1.50
Flowers of the Mind, the best poems	1.00
Life of Albert R. Parsons, with a history of the Anarchist trial	1.50
Anarchism and Other Essays, Emma Goldman.	1.10
Love's Coming of Age, Edward Carpenter	1.00
The American Esperanto Book, Arthur Baker..	1.00
The Physical Basis of Mind and Morale, Fitch..	1.00
Thoughts of a Fool	1.00
The Materialistic Conception of History, Labriola	1.00
Human Progress, Lewis H. Morgan	1.50
The Positive School of Criminology, E. Ferri..	.50
Origin of the Family, Property, State, Engels..	.50
The Evolution of Property, P. Lafargue	.50
Slavery of Our Times, Tolstoy	.65
Right to Be Lazy and Other Studies, P. Lafargue.	.50
Human, All Too Human, Nietzsche	.50
Francisco Ferrer; His Life, Work and Martyrdom	.25
The Rational Education of Children, Ferrer	.05
Modern Science and Anarchism, Kropotkin	.15
Vice; Its Friends and Its Foes, E. C. Walker	.15
What the Young Need to Know, E. C. Walker..	.15
The State; Its Historic Role, Kropotkin	.10
Syndicalism, Ford and Foster	.10
Law and Authority, Kropotkin	.05
The Wage System; Revolutionary Government.	.05
Appeal to the Young, Kropotkin	.05
Evolution and Revolution, Recluse	.05
Trade Unionism and Anarchism, Jay Fox	.05
Anarchist Communism, Kropotkin	.05
The Mexican Revolution, William C. Owen	.05
Anarchism vs. Socialism, William C. Owen	.05
Direct Action vs. Legislation, J. B. Smith	.05
Patriotism, Emma Goldman	.05
What I Believe, Emma Goldman	.05
Basis of Trade Unionism, Pouget	.05

HENDERSON BAY ROUTE—**Steamer Tyconda** leaves Commercial Dock, Tacoma, for all points on Henderson Bay, including Home, week days at 2:30 p. m., returning next morning. Sunday at 8 a. m., returning same day.

NORTH BAY ROUTE—**Steamer Tyrus** leaves Commercial Dock, Tacoma, for all points on North Bay every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a. m., returning next morning.

COMMUNISTIC LIBRARY—Meets every Thursday night from 8 to 10 o'clock; every Sunday morning from 10 to 12 o'clock. Free lessons in English and Esperanto. Books in any language free. 711 Hudson street, Trenton, N. J.

FOR SALE—Cheap—In Home Colony; an acre with four-room house, chicken house, bearing trees; good view. Apply M., Rasnick Home, Lakebay, Wash.

"WHY?" A magazinelet of the Revolution. 1423 S. Washington street, Tacoma, Wash. Monthly, 60c a year.